

# AWAKE AND ACT!

Aims and Purposes

of the

German American Bund

An Appeal to all Americans of German Stock

By

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NEW YORK, April 17, 1936

***"We will educate the American People  
to become Friends of the new Germany"***

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Dear members, members of the German Cultural League, Comrades of the O.D., members of the youths organizations, German men, German women:

This is the first opportunity I have had as leader of the German American Bund to speak to you of the work and the various problems that confront the Bund, and the objects it hopes to accomplish—above all, however, to discuss ways and means which should be adopted by our Bund in order successfully to master these intricate problems.

I am especially gratified to be privileged today to speak before you, the veteran campaigners of Greater New York, since there's no denying that New York has always presented the most active front of our movement; that it was here that the fiercest battles were fought because here the extremes clashed in the bitterest conflicts.

And since it is here that the major battles are fought, it is essential that we should have a clear understanding how best to conduct our campaign that enduring success may crown our efforts in behalf of the German American cause.

I should like to express my thanks to the eastern division for according me its unanimous support at the national convention in Buffalo—support which I solicited because I could not have assumed the leadership and responsibility without the confidence, the complete confidence, of the membership. And in the same degree that I rely upon your support, you have my unqualified assurance that you may rely upon me. My only desire is to prove myself the first servant of the cause, prepared to devote myself body and soul to the object of promoting the welfare of our beloved Bund and lead it to victory. Never shall there be occasion for you to suspect the leader of the Bund of cherishing a holier desire than the success of our movement.

The national convention at Buffalo proved that a glorious spirit prevailed in our ranks and demonstrated what enthusiasm and iron determination inspires every member to help in the great task of serving the German American cause, subordinating all thought of self, intent only on promoting the success of the movement.

### **Bund Seeks the Friendship of Americans**

The Friends of the New Germany did great and glorious work during the past years. It was always at all times an aggressive organization, and the German American Volksbund will continue to be as active and aggressive, yes, it will even intensify its attacks upon lies and political incendiarism, against Marxism and Bolshevism, and will not shirk its duty to wage war with every available power. But a change of name seemed dictated by good judgment if we are to accomplish our ends.

It was not a question of suddenly throwing overboard a name under which we waged an honorable fight for three years, which we hold in high esteem, which to us became almost symbolic, and to which we look back with pride.

After long and mature reflection we arrived at the conclusion that the name of Friends of the New Germany as that of an organization of American citizens of German blood implies a too restricted attitude, whereas the exercise of our objects demands a wider field and our movement a broader foundation. During the first years of our young movement no better title could have been selected for our activities, but today every German by birth or descent should be a friend—an assumption which we take for granted—a friend of present-day Germany.

Your Bund, however is destined to be more than that. As an organization of American citizens it purposes to take a positive attitude in the affairs of the country while complying unqualifiedly with its duties to the United States. We shall educate the American people to become friends of the New Germany.

But for us, dear friends, there is no longer a new Germany—for us there is but the one and only Germany, the Germany of today—the National Socialist Germany—the third Reich!

We can no longer tell our young children, the coming generation, of a new Germany. For them, when they take up their inheritance the present-day Germany is a self-evident concept. It presents to them nothing new, since they never knew the old.

### **Will Remain American Germans**

Hence the name would have to be changed sooner or later, and no better time or title could possibly have been chosen.

We are American Germans and we will be a united people. The word Bund incorporates within itself the idea of that which is binding. We bear in our hearts the loyalty of true friendship without advertising it in staring letters. Moreover, it is not a matter of presenting the world with a new organization under the title of German American Volksbund, but of the fact that the Friends of the New Germany have taken a new name in order that under a new name we may still better form a protective front against machinations; as American citizens advance our political interests, defend our native land against lies and slander and to a greater extent do justice to our exalted task of making known the aims and objects of the third Reich.

Accordingly the difference between old and new has no longer any significance for us. The German people, their leader and the ideas to which the leader has given form, are so completely one—so inseparably one—that to admit being sympathetic to Germany is tantamount to a confession of being sympathetic to the third Reich.

The new order in the homeland, with its deep and challenging ideas, has brought to us a new conception of our allegiance. We shall always practice loyalty and allegiance as citizens of this country linked with the destiny of our ancestral race. Hence we call ourselves American Germans and our movement the German American Volksbund. But the most novel and precious gift for which we are indebted to the wonderful renaissance of our ancestral homeland is the conviction that we cannot and dare not shake off our native attributes; that they consist of what is best in us and that we can render the United States no good service by divesting ourselves of them. The proposed racial amalgamation of which we hear so much, always reverts to the lowest type. God avert from the United States the day when its mixture of races shall conform to a common diameter!

### **The Task Before the Bund**

America is not benefitted by the dissolution of the honest, forthright, race-conscious German element into a mongrel horde of citizens infected with the lure of Hollywood, with a tabloid intelligence, hypocritical ideals and Sunday bigotry. The time will come in America, too, when materialism and idealism shall fight it out to the death—and when that time comes the element among the citizenry which has remained strong in the consciousness of its individuality, like the German, will become direfully needed and most heartily welcome!

But under our new name we have set for ourselves great and serious objectives. The Bund is American in its inception and in its field of endeavor, German in its idealism and character. To it has fallen the great task of spurring the spiritual awakening of the German element.

The German American Volksbund is inspired with the National Socialist world concept. National Socialism has given the Germans in foreign countries a unified world view; they cannot survive without a spiritual tie with the homeland. We desire that the spiritual rebirth of the German people at home shall



spiritually be transmitted to the Germans of America through mediums of flaming words and inspiring examples.

We must leave nothing undone to gain access to the hearts and minds of our fellow German Americans. **We will foster understanding for our homeland, convert our American fellow citizens into true friends of the present-day Germany.**

There can be no suggestion of our desire to transplant political National Socialism to this country. No, we must make it clear to the Aryan Americans beyond the circle of our own people that National Socialist Germany is well deserving of their loyal friendship. Even to this day public opinion of the world suffers from a sickly and appalling misunderstanding regarding Germany. Fed by muddy springs, even the well-disposed press of other nations renders itself guilty of monstrous perversions of history, sponsored by the enemies of the National Socialism and of the national honor and self-determination of the people.

### **The Bund's Political Attitude Toward Germany**

We have no intention of Germanizing members of other nations, but merely of closing the ranks of our German American citizens in order to forestall their complete extinction. What German immigration brought to America in cultural values and contributed to the cultural fructification of their new home, should have sufficed to insure our pioneers of toil and intellect a merited place in the history of the country. That this place was denied us is owing solely to the lack of a congenial German world view.

To represent the interests of the German American citizenry on the political, cultural and economic stage, and to assist in the external upbuilding and the spiritual development of this nation, in harmony with the rich traditions of our race in America—these are the objects we have set ourselves and are determined to carry into execution.

In our political attitude towards Germany we must make it clearly understood that the application of the National Socialist idea is primarily an affair of the German people and of no more concern to the rest of the world than it is the concern of the German people what form of government other nations adopt. It concerns the interests of other peoples only in so far as the Germans in the solution of this question must establish economic relations with other nations. Hence the spiritual regeneration can find expression only in the urge for a consolidation of all individuals of German stock under leaders of their own kind.

And I should like also to express my thanks to our German brethren and sisters of the separate and independent German Cultural Guild, allied as they are to us by ties of sympathy, who have set themselves the task of spreading the gospel of German cultural ideals.

### **Away With Petty Grievances!**

The German American Volksbund must not forget that it forms but a small part of the combined German national element of the United States. But under no circumstances must we fall victims to the delusion that one group of German Americans can be more prosperous if the other group prospers less. Why should it not be possible to put an end to the aimless and destructive bickerings which afford neither party a lasting advantage—why not end it and substitute in its place a proper respect for the dictates of a higher intelligence?

We shall try to accomplish top achievements in the different fields of human culture. Ready and willing as we are to cooperate in this cultural do-

main as a free and equal factor, we shall stubbornly and insistently demand **that we remain what we are.** The Bund declines to sponsor an embittered class-war inside the ranks of the German American complex. I have vowed to myself to fight as stubbornly and valiantly for equality as inversely to strengthen the sense of responsibility for needed mutual tolerance, understanding and cooperation.

Those leaders who have not yet grasped the meaning of the current epoch and have refused to unbend in order to ease the strain, and if possible end it, will some day fall victims to latent discontent. **Suspicion and hatred, envy and greed, mistrust and slander are the enemies within, which we must suppress.** Accordingly our policy within the ranks of the German American element must logically be one of conciliation. Let us take the leader of all Germans, Adolf Hitler, as our illustrious example. He, too, endeavors under all circumstances to preserve peace with his neighbors. And adopting that policy as a lesson, let us not block the approach to a unification of the nationally-minded German American element. For only in times of quiet and peace is it possible to bring about understanding. A breach in the ranks can only serve to strengthen the opposition. It is a thousand times easier for a friend to give assurance of our good intentions than an enemy, for by breaking skulls, we can never persuade a friend of the merits of our cause.

### **The Fight Against the Universal Enemy**

But how can I force a man to join a cause if he has never grasped the spirit and lesson of the times? Hence we extend the hand of fellowship to all German and German American kinsmen and to all loyal, like-minded organizations, with the sincere conviction that we shall be able jointly with them to create a strong united brotherhood.

With that in view, dear friends, it is necessary that we ourselves should be competent to realize and hearten this tremendous trend toward the true spirit of fraternity. When the voice of the true faith within us, the faith that can move mountains, speaks out—only then shall we be able to overcome all obstacles. Let us translate into action the sincere determination on our part to accomplish the great ends in view, so that there may be restored to the German element its good name and its place in the political alignment. Not till then, dear friends, can we form a united front against the threatening danger personified by the universal enemy.

And here I come to the most important problem of all which confronts us in this country—the fight against the destructive forces of civilization—Communism! For that reason alone it is our duty to stimulate the spirit of devotion in our ranks in order that we may be victorious in the uncompromising battle against Marxism, Bolshevism and their auxiliaries.

Arise and fight—not with guns and pistols, but with the weapons of the intellect, against corruption, against Communism and its leaders of an alien race in this country, under the Constitution, and for the United States, forming a bulwark against the would-be destroyers of our race consciousness!

### **An Effective Campaign of Education**

At a time of the most direful economic and political crisis in history, at a time when the separation of political ideals becomes more and more apparent, this clique of an alien race preaches and incites against us a spiritual, economic and political boycott and against a Germany that has joyfully arrayed itself under the swastika!

**It is no longer a fight against the political convictions of the individual,**



but against the entire German race. At a time when Communists, directly under the eyes of the police, openly declare themselves in favor of Moscow, when the leaders of an alien race, returning from Geneva, intone their hymn of hate against everything German and the knife is at our brethren's throats, we must be permitted to take up the defense!

Whoever has at heart the fate of the country of his origin cannot be indifferent to measures designed to pull the poisoned fangs of Marxism. This fight against Communism is the business not only of Germany but of the entire world. This universal problem demands practical clarification, open discussion and a solution, unless millions of people of other nations are to suffer harm. In this the method in which the fight is conducted plays an important part.

A bulwark must be erected against Marxist, Communist and Jewish arrogance. The pioneers who erect this bulwark will perform heroic work. It cannot be denied that the Jews in every country have seized the leadership of the Marxian movement and that many of our misguided race-fellows have allowed themselves to become willing tools in the hands of these alien leaders. The cause is not served by a loud preaching of anti-Semitism, but only by an effective campaign of education. Such a campaign must be waged in every field of life, and if it is to prove successful, must be conducted to a conclusion with relentless determination. Germany's attack on the brazen insolence of Communism should serve other nations as an object lesson.

While England and the United States, for example, have never, from a political point of view, had a serious interest in seeing Germany ruined, the Internationale clamors for the economic destruction of Germany, the United States, and the complete political enslavement not only of the present Reich, but of every country that shows signs of becoming politically and economically self-sustaining.

The internationalization of our economic affairs—that is, the control of the labor in any country by Jewish world finance—is possible only in a politically Bolshevik State.

### **Bolshevism Unmasked**

But if the Marxian cohorts—for they constitute the war battalions of the Jewish capitalists of the stock exchange—shall once and for all break the backbone of every national State, it can be done only by enlisting the full forces of Bolshevism, and hence the Semitic encouragement and leadership within all communistic and bolshevistic movements throughout the world. In other words, the international Jewish attack of world Marxism it at present concentrated upon Germany and will be directed against other countries when it has finished with the Reich.

And since present-day Germany has once and for all time cleaned its household of Marxism, its sponsors are concentrating upon other countries that rank high in the economic and cultural scale, and so the United States has become the cherished target. Here, too, the spade work is going on in various sections; the seed is being sown, and shoots of this seed are already cropping up. The bolshevization of the United States; that is, the undermining of the popular intelligence of the nation and the resulting exploitation of the workers, is merely a prelude to the furthering of communistic greed for world domination.

But we, taking the National Socialist point of view of world affairs, have seen through the false pretences of Bolshevism and recognize it under all its disguises. It stands before us unmasked, completely naked, stripped down to

its sham pretentiousness. We are familiar with its theories but also with its practices, and if the world has retained a single spark of common sense and not lost its capacity to see and think clearly, the people will be appalled and will shudder and combine to defend themselves against this impending danger.

### **A Program of Work**

Communism is anti-social and the enemy of civilization, aiming at the absolute destruction of all economic, social and national achievement. It means a declaration of war against the spirit. Hence National Socialism regards it as its worst and most dangerous enemy. Bolshevism to us represents an unbridgeable contrast to a worldly and religious point of view, a condition in which God is dethroned, churches and religion destroyed, all ethical standards uprooted.

We must free ourselves of the suggestion that we are guests in this country, for eventually we Germans will be called upon to defend this country against the Red Front. American history testifies to our share in the founding and development of this country and gives us title to a fixed tenure and the right to be heard. And of that right we shall allow no one to deprive us, be he who he may. The most sacred duty of the German American Volksbund is to fight Marxism in any of its forms and its accessory phenomena.

I will briefly repeat what I hold to be our objectives: A firmly-bound organization within, the enrolment of serious, determined members. Constructive, intelligent criticism is of value; hasty, senseless fault-finding and malicious slander are unworthy of our movement.

Every member should clearly understand that we have serious work to do and that narrow-minded philosophy has no place in our ranks. Our women, too, must be enrolled for the performance of valuable and constructive work.

But our special task is to look after our youths. Unless we proceed seriously and diligently to organize them, our movement will not endure beyond a generation. But since we are resolved to create enduring values, we must gain the love and confidence of the coming generation in order that it may grow and be prepared to take over our work.

### **Fight Corruption and Marxism**

The DKV., our marketing organization, must be fostered and enlarged with all energy. It is precisely in this field that we can achieve practical results and be helpful. From considerations of self-protection we must aim to become economically self-supporting by closer cooperation.

Our most important weapon, however, is our newspaper. It is our broadcaster and must be given wider circulation. One and all must lend a hand to extend its field of influence in order to make known our mission and enlist new members.

It will thus clearly appear that we have ample work before us and that we cannot afford to waste time in idle discussions. Are we not all inspired by the same ambition—to see a strong, formidable German American element develop that will be recognized and win respect for itself? In the spirit of the German nation we will form a solid phalanx to fight the common enemy, to the end that as German American citizens we shall be able to exercise our influence on the destiny of our adopted country—for only when we shall have attained this exalted object—and attain it we must—shall we have firmly established our claim to honor and respect, prove ourselves helpful and be able to defend our fatherland from being defiled by the foul aspersions of its enemies.



We pledge ourselves to wage decisive war against the prevailing corruption in the country and against the arch-enemy, Bolshevism and Marxism, with all their parasites.

As an organization of American citizens, the German American Volksbund will take an active part in the politics of the country, and calls upon its members, worthy, valuable citizens, to become active in the political affairs of their adopted country that they may be able to winnow the chaff from the wheat.

And that leads me to speak of the task that awaits you, dear fellow members, my expectation that you will manifest the enthusiasm of seasoned warriors, who will never relax their efforts to drill our lesson into the minds of those who still tarry by the wayside and even yet believe that discretion is the better part of valor.

Identify yourselves spiritually with the idea of our Bund so that in speaking of our movement and our objects you will not merely repeat printed words, but let the holy flame of faith and enthusiasm for our cause inspire your tongue. You cannot dissolve the ice-blocks, you cannot convert the waverers with conventional, schematic reports. The spirit of a National Socialistic point of view, the preventive fight for an imperiled German American element, the spirit of joyous sacrifice and readiness to give help—all these must prompt you, must be emphasized by every word you speak. Only then, and not till then, shall we have gained our end.

Our movement is not a pilgrimage; it is a defensive war, a last call for you to rally to the rescue. We certainly have not much time to dally; the opposition has even now succeeded to an ominous extent in poisoning public opinion. Therefore let us be mindful that every one's honor is at stake, the honor of the entire German element.

Picture the orgy of wild rejoicing that would greet our admission that our crusade against falsehood, incitement, slander, Communism, Jewish Marxism and boycott, had to be abandoned because of our failure to rally our fellow-racials in defense of a problem that affects the entire German American element—if we should have to confess that though we number millions, we lack the unity and purpose of our enemy?

We have the right and duty to meet the attempt to crush the German American element with the boast that German men and German women helped to make America what it is! And it is to the fulfillment of this duty to our fellow-German American citizens, and to our old and our new homeland that the German American Volksbund has dedicated its efforts.

In closing, I should not like to neglect this opportunity to remember the man, the German leader, Adolf Hitler, who is about to celebrate his birthday, who did what no other in the history of the German people has been able to do, unite 65,000,000 Germans. We look upon him with awe and reverence. May he be allotted many more years to labor for the welfare of his country and the world at large.

